LAST DAYS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA® AND THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

SOON WE'RE CLOSED

SECRET WARS

EWING
ROSS
ROSENBERG

009 MARVEL

LR

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

Dear Community,

You may have heard we got in a pretty serious throwdown with the other Avengers teams recently. What you may not have heard is why. Former Captain America Steve Rogers tipped us off that certain Avengers knew that the end of the world was coming and kept it to themselves.

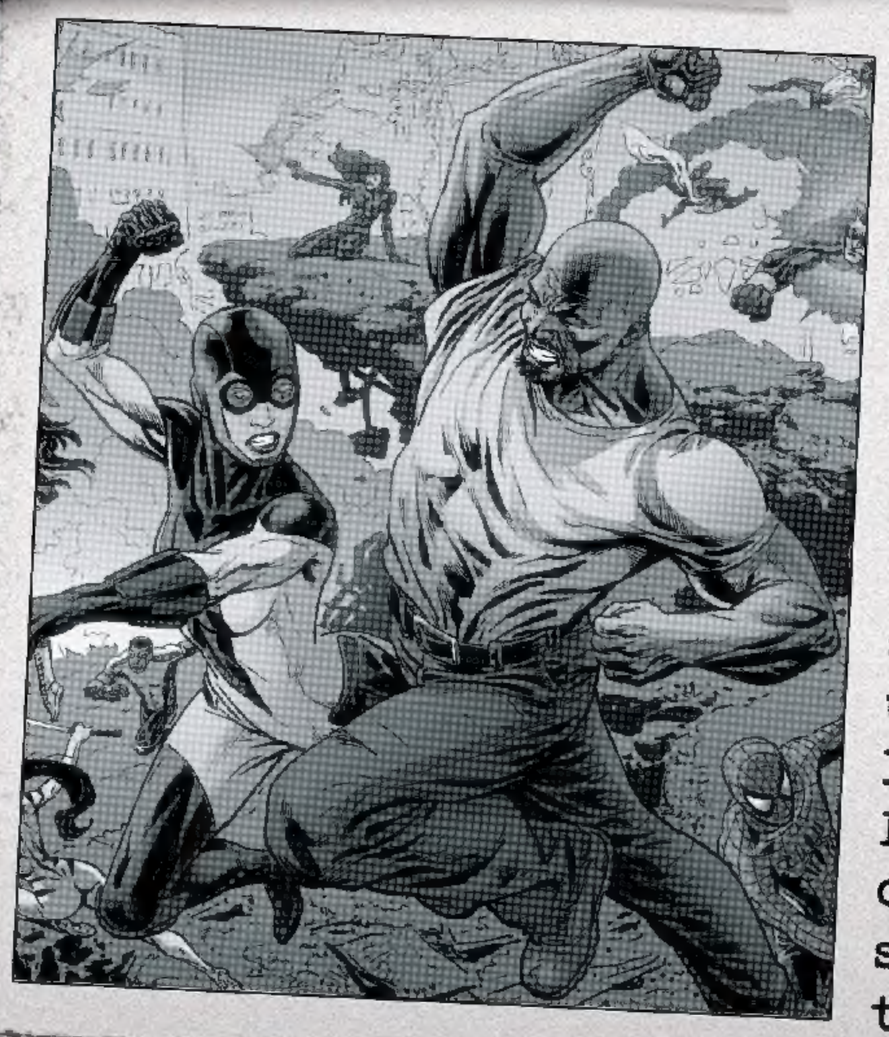
Now it's our job to clean up their mess. Your Mighty Avengers--Captain America, Power Man, She-Hulk, Spider-Man, Kaluu, White Tiger, Blue Marvel, Spectrum, Jessica Jones and myself, Luke Cage--will be in the thick of things doing whatever we can to keep the world spinning.

And we're not the only Mighty Avengers out there. Our volunteer call center will remain open during this crisis, and we need the rest of you to be our feet on the ground, helping out however you can.

If this is the end, just remember that you were part of something.

Your neighbor,

Luke Cage



THE END OF THE WORLD?

Former Captain America Steve Rogers recently alerted the Mighty Avengers to the Incursion phenomenon: the multiverse is collapsing, and when two alternate Earths collide, both of their universes are destroyed. The final Incursion between Earth-616 and Earth-1610 is imminent, and as time runs out, there may be only one way to survive: destroy an Earth to prevent the collision.

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THE GEM THEATER.
HOME OF THE...

MIGHTY AVENGERS *****

OKAY.
LET'S DO THIS.

LUKE CAGE AND JESSICA JONES.
GUEST-STARRING DANIELLE CAGE AND THE VOICE OF DAVE GRIFFITH.

MIGHTY AVENGERS *****

DAVE? YOU READY?

YEAH. FIGURE I'LL JUST TAKE OUT THE, *UH*...THE ***LEGALLY PROBLEMATIC*** BIT.

DELETE, DELETE, DELETE... ***ENTER***... AAAND...

...DONE.

DID IT WORK?

MIGHTY *****

YEAH.

NO MORE ***MIGHTY AVENGERS.***

THE END.

SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED

242 MINUTES TO LIVE

MIGHTY *****

MIGH

SORRY TO BE THE FINGER ON THE *BUTTON*, LUKE.

HONESTLY, I DIDN'T THINK TONY STARK WAS THIS *PETTY*...

DUDE TRIED TO ARREST ME FOR SITTING IN MY *HOME* ONE TIME. *THAT* WAS PETTY.

THIS...MAN, I DIDN'T THINK HE'D HAVE *TIME* FOR IT, WITH THIS *END-OF-THE-WORLD* MESS...

YOU SHOULD TALK TO *JEN*. SHE HAD A RUN-IN WITH HIS *LEGAL TEAM*--APPARENTLY THEY BARELY SPEAK TO HIM.*

JUST GET ON WITH *SUING* PEOPLE IN HIS *NAME*, MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT...

UGH. WHAT A COMPLETE AND TOTAL--

*IN *SHE-HULK #1* --TOM

POOPY MAN!

HA! YEAH, WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE "POOPY MAN."

Y'KNOW, LUKE...IF THIS *IS* THE END...

...WELL, I'M GONNA MISS IT.

JUST THE END OF THE *CHAPTER*, MAN.

WAIT AND SEE WHAT COMES *NEXT*.

YOU GUYS KNOW I *HATED* US USING THAT NAME, THOUGH, RIGHT?

WAAAY TOO SOON, JESS--

SERIOUSLY! IT WAS ASKING FOR TROUBLE ON *SO* MANY LEVELS--AND FOR *WHAT,* EXACTLY?

IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE EVER REALLY *AFFILIATED* WITH THOSE GUYS...

IT'S ABOUT COMING TOGETHER TO *FIGHT* WHAT CAN'T BE FOUGHT *ALONE--*

FINE, SO WE'RE THE *TOGETHER TEAM.* OR...OH, I DON'T KNOW...

FRIEND FORCE!

RIGHT.

THE NAME DOESN'T *MATTER,* LUKE. WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT WE *DO.*

WE'RE HERE TO *DEFEND* THOSE WHO CAN'T DEFEND *THEMSELVES,* AND ANYTHING ELSE IS...

...HUH.

YOU KNOW... AS NAMES *GO...*

WE COULD DO A WHOLE LOT *WORSE.*

BREEP BREEP

I STILL KINDA LIKE "*FRIEND FORCE*"--

TO BE CONTINUED.

YOU'VE REACHED *FRIEND FORCE,* LUKE CAGE SPEAKING--

I CAN'T TALK *LONG,* LUKE.

REED...?

WE'RE ALERTING EVERYONE WE *CAN,* BUT...THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO IS *UPON* US, I'M AFRAID.

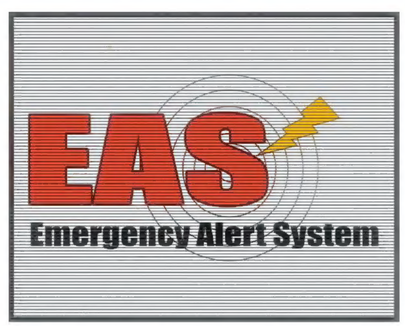
THIS IS IT.

THIS IS IT

60 MINUTES TO LIVE

THE FINAL INCURSION.
DUE TO MULTIVERSAL CONTRACTION, INCURSION TIME HAS BEEN DRASTICALLY REDUCED. THERE ARE NOW 60 MINUTES TO IMPACT.
59.
58.

ON THIS DAY WE FACE A DANGER GREATER THAN ANY WE HAVE FACED BEFORE.
THE SITUATION IS GRIM. MANY WOULD CALL IT HOPELESS.
AND YET, I BELIEVE THERE IS HOPE.



THE TERMS

57 MINUTES TO LIVE

MONICA RAMBEAU.
SPECTRUM.

ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE ***HELICARRIERS,*** RAINING FIRE FROM A SKY OF ***BLOOD.*** ANOTHER ***EARTH*** THAT WANTS TO ***REPLACE*** US.

THEY'RE NOT EVEN THE ***BAD GUYS.*** JUST SOLVING THEIR ***OWN*** TROLLEY PROBLEM...

HOW DID ***SHE-HULK*** PUT IT?

PREVIOUSLY.
THE GEM FOYER.

IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS.

THERE'S A ***PLAN,*** APPARENTLY--THEY'RE TEAMING ME WITH THE ***HULK, COLOSSUS...*** A COUPLE OF OTHERS. HEAVY HITTERS TO HIT WHERE IT HURTS.

The End

MAKES SENSE...

RIGHT.

LISTEN... MONICA... I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE TO ***TALK*** ABOUT IT, BUT...

WELL, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN... WHEN YOU'VE...

WHEN I'VE ***KILLED*** PEOPLE.

YEAH.

MOSTLY *VAMPIRES*. AND *BROCCOLI PEOPLE* AND GUYS IN *PTERANO-SUITS* WHO WERE TRYING TO KILL *ME*. BUT...

...*YEAH*. IT ALL FEELS THE SAME. IT ALL COMES *HOME* WITH YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU, JEN.

...

IF I COULD FIGHT THIS ON *MY* TERMS...IF IT WAS *JEN WALTERS* VERSUS *THE END* IN A *COURT OF LAW*...

YOU WOULD *SMASH* IT.

DAMN RIGHT. BUT WE DON'T *GET* TO SET THE TERMS.

AND...THIS IS *EVERYONE*. EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

I...I DON'T SEE THAT I HAVE A *RIGHT* TO...

IT'S OKAY. I GET IT. AND NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL *NEVER* JUDGE YOU.

WE'LL DO WHAT WE *HAVE* TO, JEN--*WHATEVER* THAT MEANS. *ALL* OF US.

AND IF WE'RE *LUCKY*...

"...WE'LL *LIVE* WITH IT."

I'VE BEEN HOPING I WOULDN'T HAVE TO *DO* THIS.

HOPING THEY'D LISTEN TO *REASON*. HOPING WE COULD *TALK*--SPEND OUR FINAL HOURS FINDING A WAY TO WORK *TOGETHER*.

BUT JEN WAS *RIGHT*. THE *TERMS* FOR THIS WERE SET A LONG TIME AGO.

TIME TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO.

LIGHTSPEED.

EVERYTHING AROUND ME STANDS STILL.

I'LL HIT THE *OTHER* EARTH IN LESS TIME THAN THE TICK OF A CLOCK--

--AND I'LL HIT IT AS *HARD LIGHT.*

IF IT *WORKS,* I'LL HIT HARD ENOUGH TO SHATTER THEIR WORLD TO *RUBBLE.*

SAVE OUR WHOLE *UNIVERSE*--AND THEIRS. AN *INFINITY* OF LIVES AT THE COST OF A FEW *BILLION.*

AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS

LIVE

WITH

IT

NO--

VVWWNNT

ULTIMATE MANHATTAN.
CURRENTLY ONE OF TWO PENULTIMATE MANHATTANS.

A further threat from the other Earth has been neutralized, Maker.

THE CITY.
DOMED SENTIENT FUTUROPOLIS. HQ AND SERVANT OF...

THE MAKER.
ULTIMATE REED RICHARDS.

Oh?

A creature of *living light*--I have locked it inside an energy-opaque field to remove it from play.

A shame *we* don't have one of those. It'd make all this *much* easier...

Why *didn't* it destroy our world?

It *hesitated,* maker.

Ah, well. We can't *blame* the poor thing.

It's *always* hard the first time...

WHAT WE DO

53 MINUTES TO LIVE

MIGHTY AVENGERS HOTLINE ROOM.
RUBY, SORAYA AND DAVE.

...I'M *SORRY*, DAVE, BUT...I JUST REALLY NEED TO BE WITH MY *KIDS* RIGHT NOW...

IT'S COOL, RUBY. YOU DO WHAT YOU *HAVE* TO.

SEE YOU FOR YOUR SHIFT *TOMORROW*, OKAY?

SURE.

TOMORROW.

UH... I SHOULD PROBABLY GET MOVING *TOO*, DAVE.

I MEAN... IF THIS IS *IT*...

NO PROBLEM, SORAYA.

JUST BE SAFE ON THE *WAY*, ALL RIGHT? IT'S GETTING *ROUGH* OUT THERE.

WILL *DO*, BOSS.

BUT IF, *UH*... IF I DON'T *SEE* YOU AGAIN...I, I WANTED TO...

IT'S OKAY.

WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT.

OKAY.

SO... WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

I MEAN, DO YOU HAVE ANYWHERE TO *BE*, OR...?

ME?

NOT REALLY. *LUKE* AND *JESS* HAVEN'T CALLED FOR A *BABYSITTER*, SO...

I FIGURED I'D JUST STAY *HERE*. KEEP THE *PHONES* RUNNING UNTIL WHATEVER HAPPENS *HAPPENS*, I GUESS--

BREEEEP BREEEEP

I'D BETTER GET THAT.

SEE YOU *LATER*, SORAYA.

...

HI! YOU'VE REACHED THE, *UH*...WELL, MY NAME'S *DAVE*.

WHAT CAN I DO TO *HELP?*

BREEEEP BREEEEP

THERE'S ANOTHER *CALL* COMING IN... I...

I SHOULD...

BREEEEP BREEEEP

GO! GO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO! SERIOUSLY, I'VE *GOT* THIS--

SORRY, NOT *YOU*, CALLER.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE WELL OUTSIDE THE DANGER ZONE, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT ACCESS TO A STORM CELLAR-- RIGHT, EXACTLY--

BREEEEP BREEEEP

WE CAN'T JUST LET IT *RING*...

HI.

YOU'VE REACHED THE *MIGHTY AVENGERS*.

WHAT CAN I DO TO *HELP?*

UH, HELLO? I'M-- MY NAME'S MIKE, I'M FROM NEW YORK-- I LIVE DOWN IN THE VILLAGE--AND--

--AND I DON'T WANNA DIE LIKE THIS--

YOU TOO, CALLER. BYE.

UH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE...

JUST THIS ONE MORE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MIKE--IF YOU CAN TRY TO STAY CALM, I PROMISE WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GET YOU TO SAFETY.

FIRST STEP-- I NEED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF BUILDING YOU'RE IN.

IF THERE'S A BASEMENT, WE COULD--

NO-- IT'S--IT'S NOT--

IT'S NOT DYING.

IT'S DYING LIKE THIS.

I JUST...THERE'S, THERE'S NOBODY IN MY LIFE. I'VE GOT NOBODY IN MY LIFE.

I'VE NEVER HAD ANYBODY.

AND, AND I...I THOUGHT I WAS OKAY WITH THAT, BUT...

...BUT NOW I'M GONNA DIE...AND...

...AND I DON'T WANNA DIE ALONE.

PLEASE.

DON'T LET ME DIE ALONE.

...

MIKE?

MY NAME'S *SORAYA.*

AND I'M GOING TO BE RIGHT HERE, ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE, FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED ME.

I--I'M SORRY, I DON'T WANT TO--

NO, IT'S OKAY. I *PROMISE,* IT'S OKAY.

THIS... THIS IS WHAT WE *DO.*

BREEEEP BREEEEP

YOU'VE REACHED THE MIGHTY AVENGERS. MY NAME'S DAVE.

WHAT CAN I DO TO *HELP?*

MIGHTY

49 MINUTES TO LIVE

34 MINUTES TO LIVE

¡POR SUPUESTO ESTOY ORGULLOSA DE TI--!

VICTOR ALVAREZ.
POWER MAN.

THEY WERE TRUE TO THEMSELVES.

31 MINUTES TO LIVE

AVA AYALA.
WHITE TIGER.

THEY FOUGHT TO THE END.

26 MINUTES TO LIVE

ADMIT IT, WONG. YOU'VE WANTED TO DO THIS FOR *YEARS*.

KALUU.

WELL...

...A *FEW* YEARS, YES.

WONG.

THEY MENDED FENCES.

18 MINUTES TO LIVE

ADAM BRASHEAR.
THE BLUE MARVEL.

DAD--IT'S *ADRIENNE*. SHE WANTS TO--

I CAN'T TALK RIGHT NOW, MAX.

WE *HAVE* TO MAKE THIS *WORK*--

DAMN IT, DAD...

MAX BRASHEAR.
DOCTOR POSITRON.

THEY MADE SACRIFICES.

11 MINUTES TO LIVE

SORAYA KHORASANI.

THEY WERE THERE FOR US.

DAVE GRIFFITH.

THEY HELPED US.

6 MINUTES TO LIVE

THEY WERE *MIGHTY.*

HEY.

...HEY, YOURSELF.

YAY!

JESSICA JONES.

SO.

YOU WANT TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

LUKE CAGE.

AND WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE...

...THAT WAS ENOUGH.

YOU

2 MINUTES TO LIVE

--DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN *HEAR* ME...

...BUT IF YOU CAN, *PLEASE* DON'T TRY TO MOVE TOO MUCH. YOU'VE BEEN QUITE BADLY INJURED.

I HAVE YOU ON *PAINKILLERS*, BUT...

...WELL, ALL I HAVE TO GO ON IS YOUR *CHART*, AND FRANKLY THERE'S A LOT *MISSING*.

PEOPLE WOULD RATHER BE WITH THEIR *FAMILIES* THAN FILL OUT *PAPERWORK*. I CAN'T *BLAME* THEM.

SO I DON'T KNOW IF YOU *LIVE* IN NEW YORK, OR IF YOU JUST HAPPENED TO BE HERE FOR *THIS*.

I DON'T KNOW YOUR *NAME*, OR YOUR *BLOOD TYPE*, OR YOUR *INSURANCE PLAN*.

ALL I *KNOW*...

...IS THAT YOU WERE HOLDING ONE OF *THESE*.

OFFICIAL MIGHTY AVENGER

AVENGERS

NOW... RIGHT EYE...

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU GOT HERE?

AND LEFT EYE. VERY GOOD.

YOU WERE STRUCK BY ***FALLING MASONRY*** WHILE ASSISTING IN THE EVACUATION OF A ***SCHOOL,*** ACCORDING TO THE SAMARITAN WHO BROUGHT YOU IN.

BY THEIR RECKONING, AT LEAST ***THREE*** OF THE ***YOUNGER*** CHILDREN OWE THEIR LIVES TO ***YOU.***

THAT MIGHT NOT ***SEEM*** LIKE MUCH. HALF AN HOUR OR SO OF LIFE BEFORE THE END COMES-- IT'S A SMALL BLESSING.

BUT THE SMALL THINGS ***MATTER.*** THE ***EFFORT*** MATTERS.

OFFICIAL MIGHTY AVENGER

IF WE ***GIVE IN...*** IF WE DON'T AT LEAST ***TRY...***

...THEN THE WORLD HAS ***ALREADY*** ENDED.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

IF THE BUILDING DOESN'T *COLLAPSE* FIRST.

THERE. *MY* CARD.

WE WERE *AVENGERS*, YOU AND I. THE *MIGHTIEST* OF AVENGERS.

OFFICIAL MIGHTY AVENGER

MIGHTY AVENGERS

AT THE END OF THE WORLD, WE ALL *MEANT* SOMETHING.

WE ALL *COUNTED.*

AND I AM VERY *PROUD* TO DIE ALONGSIDE YOU, MY FRIEND.

CAN YOU TURN YOUR HEAD?

IT REALLY IS QUITE A *VIEW.*

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RACHELLE ROSENBERG COLOR ARTIST
TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERER
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CAPTAIN AMERICA CREATED BY JOE SIMON AND JACK KIRBY
AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY

THERE IS ONLY SECRET WARS

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

"If this is the end, I'm going to miss it."

You can't get a much more definitive ending than the planet blowing up. It's the end, all right – after 23 issues split into two 'Seasons', MIGHTY AVENGERS – or CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE MIGHTY AVENGERS, as it became – is wrapping up. (It's more like 25 issues, if you count CAPTAIN BRITAIN AND THE MIGHTY DEFENDERS, dropping next month, which distils a lot of the themes of the run and very probably a whole bunch of new concerns thrown up by the recent UK election. Hope to see you there!)

But even discounting those – 23 issues feels like a pretty good run these days, and – despite the usual 'well, that line could have been better' that all writers are plagued by – I'm proud of how it came out. Plans came and plans went, but always in service of building the kind of superhero comic I'd like to read – heavy on the cosmic strangeness, in touch with the ordinary and fun for all the family. And lovely-looking to boot!

So with that in mind, it's time to give thanks to all my collaborators – awesome artists Greg Land, Jay Leisten, Valerio Schiti, Salvador Larroca, Luke Ross and Iban Coello, colorists Frank D'Armata, Edgar Delgado, Matt Milla and Rachelle Rosenberg and letterers Cory Petit and Travis Lanham. They went above and beyond and put up with all sorts of nonsense from me ("draw the outside of the universe") and for that I'm profoundly grateful.

Not forgetting our additional cover artists Francesco Francavilla, Sanford Greene and Leinil Francis Yu -- as well as variant cover artists (deep breath) Bryan Hitch, Daniel Acuna, J Scott Campbell, Jason Latour, Kalman Andrasofszky, Leonel Castellani, Mike Grell, Ron Wimberly, Skottie Young, Steve Epting, Afua Richardson and Ryan Benjamin... if I missed you out, let me know!

And thanks to the editors, without whom this comic would never have seen print – Alanna Smith, Jake Thomas, Jon Moisan, Wil Moss – and most of all, thanks to Tom Brevoort for steering the ship and Lauren Sankovitch for getting me started at Marvel in the first place. She's to blame!

But most of all, thank YOU. Without you, the readers, this book wouldn't have been one of the last titles standing at the end of the world. All the support for this book has been fantastic to see and I treasure every kind word that's been written and said about it. Which is all fairly cold comfort if the characters you've grown to love are going to be left stranded, without a home of their own – even if they manage to survive the death of the universe.

All I'll say on that score is that yes, it's the end...

...but the moment has been prepared for.

"Wait and see what comes next."

Cheers.

Al Ewing

NEXT MONTH:

ZONE